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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient,

the multi-media message being created by a sender for delivery by an animated entity, the

method comprising:

recording an audio message from the sender;

after recording the audio message from the sender, converting the audio message to a

text message and presenting a text version of the audio message to the sender;

receiving a choice of one of a plurality of animated entities to deliver the message;

conforming the audio message to movements associated with the animated entity to

create a multi-media message; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient with the animated entity speaking

the recorded audio message from the sender, wherein

the multi-media message is delivered to the recipient upon approval of the text

message from the sender.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent as an e-mail to the recipient.

4.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent as an instant message to the recipient.

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5.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent over the Internet to the recipient

6.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent to the recipient via a wireless network.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a

recipient using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of

animated entities, the method comprising:

        recording a sender audio message;

        associating the sender audio message with the animated entity to create the multi-

media message;

        using an automatic speech recognition system to convert the audio message to a text

message;

        presenting the text message to the sender in textual form;

        after receiving approval from the sender for the text message, using the text message

to coordinate mouth movements for the animated entity; and

        processing the multi-media message for the recipient such that the animated entity

speaks the sender audio message.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent over the Internet.

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10.   (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent in an instant message.

11.   (Original) The method of sending a multimedia message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent over a wireless network.

12-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics, the method comprising:

        receiving an audio recording, associated with a message, from a sender;

        after receiving the audio recording, using an automatic speech recognizer and

presenting a text version of the audio recording to the sender for approval;

        parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters after receiving the approval

of the sender; and

        using the audio parameters, synthesizing a voice for delivery of the message that is

not the sender's voice but includes at least one sender voice characteristic.

19.   (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics of claim 18, wherein the at least one sender voice characteristic is one of an

accent, voice inflection, pitch, rhythm, or dialect.

20-21. (Canceled)

22.   (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics of claim 18, wherein parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters

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further comprises using an alignment program for segmenting the audio recording into

phonemes and labeling the audio recording with the phonemes, duration, pitch, stress and

other parameters.

23-24. (Canceled)

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